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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/553,216	10/13/2005	Kiyoshi Nakamori	071971-0378	8976
20277	7590	06/22/2009	EXAMINER	
MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP			CHOW, LINI	
600 13TH STREET, N.W.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3096			2627	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/553,216	<b>Applicant(s)</b> NAKAMORI, KIYOSHI
	<b>Examiner</b> LIXI CHOW	<b>Art Unit</b> 2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2009.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 October 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-166/08)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election of Species A in the reply filed on 04/24/09 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 3-19 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 04/24/09.

***Drawings***

2. Figures 15-17 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Priority***

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereafter AAPA).

Regarding claim 1:

AAPA discloses a circuit for detecting a recorded area of an optical disk (see Fig. 15), the circuit comprising:

a counter (Fig. 15, element 80) for detecting an unrecorded area; and

a counter (Fig. 15, element 81) for detecting a recorded area, wherein the counter for detecting an unrecorded area receives a reference clock (see Fig. 15; the clk signal is inputted into the counter for detecting unrecorded area 80), outputs an unrecorded area detection signal as a first output (see Fig. 15; the signal S80 being inputted into the flip-flop circuit 82 is interpreted as the first output), and outputs a reset signal to the counter for detecting a recorded area as a second output (see Fig. 15; the signal S80 being inputted into the counter for detecting recorded area 81 is interpreted as the second output); and

the counter for detecting a recorded area receives a digitized signal obtained by digitizing an RF signal from the optical disk (see Fig. 15; the signal RF is being inputted into the counter 81) and produces an output serving as a reset signal for resetting the counter for detecting an unrecorded area and also as a recorded area detection signal (see Fig. 15, signal S81).

*Allowable Subject Matter*

6. Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In regards to claim 2, none of the reference of record alone or in combination discloses or suggests the circuit of claim 1, wherein respective times elapsed until the unrecorded area detection signal is outputted from the counter for detecting an unrecorded area, until the reset signal is outputted to the counter for detecting a recorded area, and until the recorded area detection signal is outputted from the counter for detecting a recorded area satisfy a relationship represented by:

**Time Elapsed Until Unrecorded Area Detection Signal is Outputted > Time Elapsed Until Reset Signal is Outputted to Counter for Detecting Recorded Area > Time Elapsed Until Recorded Area Detection Signal is Outputted,**

wherein the time elapsed until the unrecorded area detection signal is outputted is longest.

***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Asada et al. (US 2003/0151995) is cited to show a related art reference that teaches a mark/space length detection counter that counts and outputs the mark and space length of the binary recording signal.

Yoshida (US 5,155,722) is cited because Yoshida discloses an apparatus for detecting recorded portions and unrecorded portions of the data recording area of the optical disk.

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Yamamoto et al. (US 6,891,785) is cited to show an optical disc reproduction apparatus comprising an unrecorded sector determination section.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LIXI CHOW whose telephone number is (571)272-7571. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on 571-272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lixi Chow/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2627